

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:725
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
PROCUREMENT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Navy has only one Aircraft Carrier viz. INS Virat in service against the requirement of two Operational Aircraft Carriers;
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay in obtaining another aircraft carrier; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the requirement of Indian Navy?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE : (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship for the Indian Navy in 1999. Keeping in view the strategic importance and role of the Air Defence Ship, approval was accorded for a higher capacity ship at a revised cost of Rs.2880 crores in January, 2003. In addition, an Inter-Governmental Agreement has been signed with the Government of Russian Federation in October, 2000 for the acquisition of an Aircraft Carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov'. An investment decision on the acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov has not yet been taken.